Arkansas Tech University

Professional Development Grant Final Report – 2014

A National Study of Student Affairs Graduate Preparation Programs:

What is the Current State and Where Do We Go from Here?

Presentation to NASPA Student Affairs Administrators

in Higher Education National Conference

Baltimore, MD

March 16 - 18, 2014:

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Associate Professor of College Student Personnel
This final report outlines the results of a professional development grant that funded travel, lodging, and meals during travel to the national conference from March 16-18, 2014. The grant was approved in support of my attendance, where a colleague and I delivered a 60 minute presentation to participants of the 2014 NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD. A copy of the program page on which this presentation appeared is included at the end of this report.

B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity

This faculty member traveled to a national conference in order to co-present a program entitled, “A National Study of Student Affairs Graduate Preparation Programs: What Is the Current State and Where Do We Go from Here,” at the NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education National Conference. The purpose of the presentation was to educate faculty and student affairs professionals on the current state and make-up of student affairs graduate preparation programs in the United States. Drs. Austin and Underwood offered an overview of the topic and findings of their multiyear survey research.

This session disseminated the findings of a nationwide survey, first conducted in 2011 and updated in 2013, on higher education graduate preparation programs at both the doctoral and master’s level. Findings offered an overview of student/faculty demographics, program characteristics and foci, as well as an overview of program delivery methods, admissions requirements, and program options available to aspiring graduate students. The presenters will engage the audience in a conversation about the strengths and weakness of current educational trends.

Outcomes of the presentation for the attendees included the following:

- An awareness of the characteristics of higher education graduate preparation programs, master’s and doctoral levels, currently offered in the US.
- Knowledge of student enrollment and faculty numbers within graduate preparation programs.
- An understanding of the requirements for admission, program focus, and options, as well as program delivery formats.
- An appreciation of current trends and emerging innovations in graduate preparation programs.

C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity

The presentation allowed the presenter to build upon professional skills and networking opportunities that are key to keeping current in the student affairs field. Understanding how to build appropriate student services to meet the demand of the online student demographic is vital to the continued success of the Arkansas Tech University, College Student Personnel program since it is a predominantly online degree and this presentation details the work that the program faculty undertake daily to engage with their students. The presentation served to create strong networks for future research projects, bring Arkansas Tech University into a supportive network
of schools of character, and offered opportunities to highlight Arkansas Tech University’s technological initiatives and reputation at an international conference.

D. Summary of experiences

This presentation was selected as one of 500 from a pool of over 1500 programs. This successful presentation sparked conversations among participants about the state of master’s and doctoral programs of student affairs and higher education administration. It also served to place Arkansas Tech University as an innovator among College Student Personnel graduate preparation programs in its provision of holistic online education.

A copy of the program cover and the presentation listing is provided at the end of this report.

E. Conclusions and Recommendations

The presentation served to create strong networks for future research projects, to bring Arkansas Tech University into a supportive network of schools of character, and to offer opportunities to highlight Arkansas Tech University’s technological initiatives and reputation at an international conference. I offer my extreme gratitude to the Professional Development committee and to the Office of Academic Affairs of ATU for providing opportunities for my professional growth as well as enabling me to set up future opportunities with other professionals in my field.
APPENDIX

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Hilton, Holiday Ballroom - (S)
Susan Underwood, Arkansas Tech University
Christine Austin, Arkansas Tech University

Convention Center, 339
Stephanie Adams, University of Scranton
Kathryn Jenkins, University of Scranton

265 Best Practices for Supporting Veterans in Community Colleges
Convention Center, 332
Eric Wheeler, Monroe Community College

266 Beyond the Bachelor’s Degree: Revolutionizing the Philosophy of Student Support in Graduate and Professional Degree Programs
Convention Center, 346
Lynne Arne, University of South Florida
Heather Pruell, University of South Florida- College of Pharmacy
Katherine Hall-Hertel, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, The Graduate School
Charlene Layton-Woff, University of Maryland-School of Pharmacy
Jill Morgan, University of Maryland-School of Pharmacy

267 Blurring Boundaries: Building Faculty Partnerships for Student Success
Convention Center, 321
Jeff Grimes, Southern Methodist University
Lori White, Southern Methodist University
Ann Batenburg, Southern Methodist University
Michelle Madson, Southern Methodist University

268 Building Communities of Support with Families in Higher Education
Convention Center, 324
Terese Bill, University of Hawai’i, Manoa
Ilana Huangel Ruesas, University of Hawai’i, Manoa
Angeline Likoalehua Manginui, University of Hawai’i, Manoa

269 Building Supportive Student Veteran Communities: Innovative and Effective Strategies
Convention Center, 334
Dennis Wiese, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Brad Boyer, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs
Phillip Morris, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs
Alison Jenner, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

270 Change We Can Believe In: Building and Sustaining a Culture of Assessment in Student Affairs
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Darby Roberts, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Nathan Lindsay, University of Illinois at Chicago
Michael Jasek, Northern Illinois University

271 Changing Demographics and New Strategies: Risk Management and Counseling Chinese Students
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Shi-Min Raymond Ting, North Carolina State University at Raleigh

272 Collaborative Support for Students from Foster Care: You Can’t Do It Alone
Hilton, Kings Ballroom - (S)
Madeline Day, Western Michigan University
Rachel Nasaossi, University of Michigan
John Emerson, Casey Family Programs
Brittany Barlow, Eastern Michigan University
Jai Rancher, Eastern Michigan University

273 Consider the Possibilities: Career Opportunities at Small Colleges and Universities
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Jerry Price, Chapman University
Barbara Avery, Occidental College